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known quarrel between Italy and France over Tunis with facts which most historians have failed to note; the discussion of the work of Italians in effecting an economic and political renaissance in Argentina is a vital study in the comparative influence of environment and tradition (which is itself, in one view, a product of past environment); Chapters 22 and 23, dealing with the effect of emigration on general Italian foreign policy, show that Italian national imperialism is bulwarked by, if not sprung from emigration.

The chapters on the United States are almost purely economic in scope. Italian emigration thither is recent, and most of it is seasonal and transient. Consequently there has been little opportunity for reactions by or upon the environment. Perhaps because of this situation Italians in the United States disclose sharply a trait common to their compatriots elsewhere—they carry to their new homes the regional antipathies and separatist tendencies which are the product of age-old geographic separatism within Italy.

Each of the chapters on the countries of immigration contains valuable statistics of the geographic and occupational distribution of immigrants within the country and of their origin within Italy. Figures on emigration appear in the first two chapters of the volume and in the Appendix. All these may be found readily with the aid of the general index, which is unusually well prepared. The special student will find materials well in hand in the two-column bibliographical index of nine pages. Nearly every page of the text is elaborated with footnotes containing quotations from the sources.

Combining careful workmanship, broad scholarship, and readability, the work proves that romance need not be excluded from a work of erudition, provided the subject is a vital one.

D. S. WHITTLESEY

RECENT BOOKS OF TRAVEL IN ASIA

EDMUND CANDLER. **On the Edge of the World.** 278 pp.; map, ills., index. Cassell & Co., Ltd., London, New York, Toronto, and Melbourne, 1919. 8 x 5½ inches.

ELLA AND PERCY SYKES. **Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia.** xii and 340 pp.; maps, ills., index. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London, 1920. 21s. 8½ x 5½ inches.

A. DE C. SOWERBY. **Sport and Science on the Sino-Mongolian Frontier.** xvi and 295 pp.; ills. Andrew Melrose, Ltd., London, 1918. 8½ x 5½ inches.

S. POLLARD. **In Unknown China: A Record of the Observations, Adventures and Experiences of a Pioneer Missionary During a Prolonged Sojourn Amongst the Wild and Unknown Nosu Tribe of Western China.** 324 pp.; maps, ills., index. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia; Seeley, Service & Co., Ltd., London, 1921. 25s. 9 x 6 inches.

R. C. AND Y. B. ANDREWS. **Camps and Trails in China. A Narrative of Exploration, Adventure, and Sport in Little-Known China.** xxv and 334 pp.; maps, ills., index. D. Appleton & Co., New York and London, 1920. \$5.00. 8½ x 6 inches.

These books of travel, all well illustrated, have in common the fact that they deal with frontier regions on the marches of the old Chinese Empire. In each instance the peoples dealt with arouse particular interest in the traveler from their contrast with neighboring folk, and in each region Nature is impressive—wild mountain country or desert wilderness. If it is the “sun-baked, barren ridges, the shifting, windswept sand-dunes, and the saline, brackish swamps of the Ordos Desert” that cast the strongest spell on Mr. Sowerby, Mr. Candler in “On the Edge of the World” succumbs to the glories of the mountains “back of Kashmir.” The latter author has produced a delightful volume. He touches traditional phases of Indian life and landscape but in such a charming and whimsical manner that the most ordinary subject is given new life. To his writing he brings much of the insight and philosophy of a Kipling and a scientific knowledge and interest. Mountains and pilgrims and pilgrimages are his main themes. The sacred places of the high mountains, the cave of Amarnath, the lake of Gangabal call forth sympathetic description; with its degenerate priests, the shrine of Jawala Mukhi, the Sacred Flame, in the foothills back of Amritsar evokes an unattractive contrast. Of special interest is the visit to Nanga Parbat “a wild country and a wilder people”—mountain raiders who terrorize the Kashmir peasantry. Particular mention may be made of the excursion to the Rakiot glacier, previously visited by Mummery, Bruce, and Collie with whose reports its present aspect is compared. There are also a couple of journeys in Persia—on the old Baghdad-Kermanshah road and in the Bakhtiari foothills.

In "Through Deserts and Oases of Central Asia" the authors have extended their Persian field of travel to the Pamir and Chinese Turkestan. Chinese Turkestan is a curious mixture of Russian, Chinese, Hindu, and Moslem customs and religions, for it is not only a frontier region but through it runs the great ancient road from China to the Occident. The population of this vast plain, 1000 miles from east to west and half that distance from north to south, is estimated at 1,500,000, mostly confined to the oases that form only 1½ per cent of the entire area. Its two types, settled and nomadic (with a small semi-nomadic division), are administered separately by the Chinese government. Details of the history and geography of the land are given by Sir Percy Sykes in the second half of the book: the first half written by Miss Sykes is narrative.

Mr. Sowerby, joint-author with Robert S. Clark of "Through Shên-Kan" (Shensi-Kansu), has continued his explorations on the Sino-Mongolian frontier—that is the frontier as defined by the Great Wall, which to a great extent follows the natural boundary rather than the present political boundary. The work done was in the nature of scientific and geographical research, including the collection of biological specimens, the making of geological notes, the carrying out of compass traverses (unfortunately the exigencies of wartime publication prevented inclusion in the volume of the promised map), and general investigation into the lives, customs, and conditions of the natives. Regarding the last field the author, who was born in China and knows the people and their language, makes observations specially interesting at the present time. The Mongols he describes as a wretched remnant of a noble people degraded by a degenerate religion until they bear no resemblance to the tribes that under Jenghis Khan swept Asia and eastern Europe in a conquest that has never been equalled. Along the border the Chinese are steadily advancing, pushing further and further into Mongol territory. The several explorations are described in separate chapters, and there are also chapters on the biological work and on the flora and geology of the region.

The "Unknown China" of Mr. Pollard is the country he styles the home of the Yangtze Kiang, Nosuland, a semi-independent district of Szechwan bordering on Yunnan. The connection with the Government is chiefly the sending of tributes, one of which consists of the yearly despatch of forty-eight horses to Peking—at least the Nosus start them on the journey leaving it to the petty officials en route to decide whether they shall ever reach their destination. Among the aboriginals of China the Nosuland tribes are unique in that they possess a written language, ideographic like the Chinese but bearing no other resemblance to it. A completely organized feudal system is in vogue.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews have written an account of the Asiatic Zoölogical Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History to China in 1916-1917. The destination of the expedition was the remote border province of Yunnan. The route was by way of Shanghai and Foo-chow with a brief stop-over in Fukien—an unsuccessful attempt to secure a specimen of the so-called "blue tiger." Ethnographically Yunnan is interesting as the seat of some thirty semi-independent non-Chinese tribes, some of whom represent the original inhabitants of China. It maintains a rather indifferent attitude towards the affairs of the government, with which it has little connection except through the media of tax collectors and other petty officials. The people are simple, kindly, hospitable, with a wealth of interesting folklore. The collection of 3,300 specimens and a large number of photographs and picture films is reported. The scientific results will be published by the Museum. From the present volume, which has the character of a popular narrative, details of scientific interest have been largely eliminated.

THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF SIBERIA

RICHARD POHLE. *Sibirien als Wirtschaftsraum. Eine Einführung in das Leben Sibiriens.* viii and 66 pp.; map, bibliogr. Kurt Schroeder, Bonn and Leipzig, 1921. 9 x 6 inches.

Richard Pohle has to his credit a number of regional studies that are as thoughtful as they are brief and unpretentious. The essay under consideration is fortified at every turn by statistics and references to vital sources. At this time the Siberian realm is of special interest because the character of its development will depend largely upon the outcome, ultimate as well as immediate, of the Washington conference on the limitation of armaments and Far Eastern questions. Pohle regards Siberia as a house with two fronts: an eastern, which is still free for possession by the strong, and a western, which is irretrievably held by Moscow. The effect is to deny to West Siberia an outlet to the world-encircling and commercially life-